

Lt. Governor John Garamendi's Statement on the Budget Compromise

SACRAMENTO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi issued the following statement on the state budget compromise:

"It's time for Californians to take a stand for our future and our children's future. We must modernize our economy, stabilize our budget, reform and fully fund our education programs, establish a universal health care system, address the threat of climate change and adapt our water and transportation systems to the reality of the new and changing environment.

We are still the sixth wealthiest economy in the world, but we will not be so highly ranked unless we reestablish the successful California tradition of investing in both the public and the private sectors. We cannot allow a continuation of the gridlock caused by the Republicans' refusal to adequately fund those investments that create economic growth and social advancement. The two-thirds vote requirement must end along with the ideology that we can continue to cut essential services and education and end up with a vibrant economy and a peaceful society.

Sadly the budget compromise does nothing to advance any of these critical tasks. While it is long past the time to end the budget impasse, the compromise before the California Legislature is a sad and sorry excuse for a budget. This budget "kicks the can down the road" because it does nothing to solve the structural deficit; it does nothing to fund or to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our poorly performing education system, the prison system or any other state program. It uses accounting gimmicks and borrowing to plug the hole.

One thing that this budgets guarantees is that within five months the whole mess will be repeated. We are after all Californians. We built this great state and we certainly can do better."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 15, 2008

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